

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

1. Dental surgeons and doctors generally are able to carry on their private practice in Harbin without Government interference. They are exempt from all taxation and pay only a "contribution" of half a percent of their income. Harbin now has about 170 Soviet and 150 Chinese dentists and dental technicians.
2. The Soviet dentists are members of the Association of Soviet Dentists (Obhchestvo Sovetskikh Zubnikh Vrachey), whose office is on Ulitsa Kommercheskaya, Harbin. The Chinese dentists have a separate association with no contact with their Soviet colleagues. Other Soviet medical personnel is similarly organized in unions of general practitioners, male medical assistants with about 20 to 30 members, and nurses with about 30 members. Jointly these constitute the Soviet Medical Association of Harbin, which has a committee representing each body.
3. The Chinese Municipal Sanitation Department (Sanitarny Otdel) is the highest health authority in Harbin. Both the Chinese and the Soviet medical associations are under its control. It checks medical diplomas, grants permits to practice, and is responsible for sanitation and public health. Recently it also distributed alcohol and cotton wool, a shortage of which has been increasingly felt. Its offices are located on Ulitsa Pekarnaya.
4. Most drugs available in Harbin are of American origin, which have been imported by Chinese agents from Shanghai and Tientsin and sold wholesale to the Pharmacists Association, which then allots them to pharmacies. Various sulfa drugs, penicillin, and streptomycin are imported in this way, but in totally insufficient quantities. They appear very rarely on the market, and a single tablet of sulfaguanidin, for instance, costs JMP 10,000. No Soviet-made drugs are available in Harbin, but Soviet cotton wool is smuggled from North Korea.

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5. During the past few years about ten laboratories have been set up in Harbin to produce various drugs. One of these, at Ulitsa Birjevaya, employs about twenty to thirty workers.
6. American dental materials are also obtained from Tientsin and Shanghai, including all the acrylic acid used in the manufacture of dentures. White metal alloys, such as wippla (bismuth--platinum) of Japanese origin, are also imported from there.
7. Medical instruments are in extremely short supply since they cannot now be imported, and doctors continue to use their old instruments. Even such items as tweezers made in Shanghai are unsuitable for use.
8. No cases of epidemic disease are known during the past few years in Harbin and the surrounding district, except for an outbreak of plague in 1950 reported to have occurred in a locality about four to five hours' journey from Harbin. The disease was brought under control in about a month, after Soviet doctors were called in.
9. There is a general municipal hospital in the new town and a military hospital outside Harbin. Five private hospitals are about to close down, since dispensaries and hospital wards are being set up by each of the larger government institutions to provide free medical aid.
10. Exit permits are granted by the Public Security Department (Department Obshchestvennoy Bezopasnosti) at Ulitsa Skvoznaya, Harbin. Chinese in Harbin are unrestricted in their travel, but foreigners, including Soviet citizens, who wish to leave must obtain a permit from the Public Security Department. Such permits are received only with great difficulty and after considerable delay.
11. Outwardly the administration of Harbin is purely Chinese, and no Soviets are seen in official positions. It is generally believed, however, that their influence behind the scenes is overriding, for Soviet methods and techniques are employed everywhere.
12. The following official Soviet Companies are represented at Harbin: Torgpredstvo, the Sino-Soviet trade institute; Exportkhleb, the grain export company; Exportfilm, the company distributing Soviet films; and a Soviet transport company.
13. Although it has been rumored that the railroads are to be turned over to the Chinese, the management at Harbin is still Sino-Soviet, the flags and pictures of Soviet leaders are to be found at every railroad station in Manchuria. Juravlov (fnu), the Soviet general manager of the railroad, left Harbin in 1951.
14. Apart from Russian books, which are sold very cheaply in unlimited quantities, the only Soviet goods available in Harbin are poor quality textiles in limited quantities, watches, and occasionally bicycles.
15. Harbin is full of industrial goods and foodstuffs in unlimited quantities, but at prices which a worker or clerk earning an average salary of JMP 300,000 cannot afford. The prices of some of the essentials are as follows:

Bread	JMP	4,000	per kg
Meat		16,000	" "
Rice		3,000	" "
Milk		3,000	" "
Butter		30,000	" "
Oil		10,000	" "
Sugar		14,000	" "
A man's suit about		2,000,000	to 3,000,000
A pair of shoes, about		150,000	to 200,000

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16. A large proportion of the younger generation supports the regime, but large segments of the population are dissatisfied. The peasants complain at having to hand over their entire harvest to the government, and the workers protest against the low wages and unlimited hours. Political insecurity is even more strongly felt by the Soviet citizens than the Chinese.
17. The Soviets take grain, meat, eggs, and even potatoes from Manchuria in return for agricultural machinery.
18. Industry in Harbin is undeveloped, and there are only a few flour mills, some of which work only for export to the USSR. However, a number of enterprises including textile mills are under construction on a special site outside the town.
19. The railroad from Harbin to Tientsin has a single track, which is doubled in some sections. Movement of freight is heavy, and passenger trains encounter about one freight train an hour. Near Mukden whole trainloads of tanks have been seen, and many freight cars have suffered severe damage, probably in Korea.
20. There are through trains from Harbin to the USSR through Pogradichaya and Manchuria. The track has been adapted to the Soviet gauge on this line.
21. During the past few years the airfields near Harbin have been enlarged, and Soviet pilots instruct Chinese students there. Planes now appear frequently over Harbin.
22. There are no Soviet units stationed at Harbin, but it is not uncommon to see men with Soviet features in the Chinese units. They are Soviet instructors wearing Chinese uniforms with no distinguishing marks.
23. On 24 January 1952 a great "confession" was inaugurated all over China. People were asked of their free will to make public their past sins, particularly governmental and private officials. A far reaching purge of some months resulted. In Harbin alone about 150 Chinese were sentenced to death and shot in the municipal garden in the course of three months.

1. Comment. This statement might be interpreted, "no epidemics were experienced in....."

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